



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Project: Eastside Regional Park Plaza, *El Paso, Texas*

Budget: \$205,000 all inclusive

CALL TO DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

The City of El Paso's Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) Public Art Program and Parks and Recreation Department seeks to commission a professional artist to design and develop a public art piece for the Plaza as the first phase for the Eastside Regional Park.

The City of El Paso is working with the design consultants to develop the design of the Eastside Regional Park Community Center/Natatorium, and seeks a professional artist with proven experience in developing public art to join the design team.

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

El Paso's Public Art Program commissions and maintains a diverse collection of public artworks; supports the inclusion of public art in private development and infrastructure built by other; promotes the community's access to, appreciation of, and enjoyment of visual art; and supports the emergence of public art practice in El Paso.

EASTSIDE REGIONAL PARK

The City of El Paso will be developing 92 acres of land that will become The Eastside Regional Park. When completed, the park will be the largest fully-developed park in the City of El Paso. This park will have a number of active uses, such as ball fields, play courts, skate/BMX Park, amphitheater, pavilions, playgrounds, Dog Park, community garden area, and more. There is also a significant building – a community center/natatorium, but it will have significant open space and natural areas enhanced by specific environmental landscaping, as well.

PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY

There will be a Plaza between the Community Center/Natatorium and Amphitheater. This location offers the opportunity to work with the designers to collaborate during design to potentially affect the plaza design and its landscaping, and then creatively integrate further artistic concepts through components that expand and extend the sense of place. The plaza as a place should be energetic, fun and always interesting and engaging. A place that park users look forward to being engaged in and being involved in its activities as they move across it. At the same time it should function as a place that is totally enjoyable when used to sit in either alone or as a gathering place to be with others.

By collaborating there is the potential for the artist to specifically influence, in part or as a whole, some aspects of the plaza, such as the ground plane hardscape, seating arrangements, landscaping, lighting, etc.

PROJECT GOALS

Public art will support the mission and programming of the Parks and Recreation Department by targeting the overall goals to include:

- Enhance the constructed facilities with architectural integrated artwork.
- Reinforce the role of regional parks and clusters of community facilities (parks, recreation center, pools, senior centers) as civic anchors and places of community gathering and cohesion.
- Explore how public art can connect to additional parks and open space resources recommended in the Parks and Recreation and Open Space Master Plans (trails, open space connections).
- Explore overlaps between public art and the events that take place in parks, swimming facilities and recreation centers (performances, community art-making).

BUDGET

The funds for this project are derived from the 2% for public art portion of the City of El Paso Quality of Life Bond Issuance. The total award for an artist contract is \$205,000, inclusive of stakeholder collaboration, design, fabrication and installation of artwork (including shipping expenses and insurance), travel, and all other project related costs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This project is open competition to all artists working or living in the United States. Artists applying for this project must have previous public art experience and have successfully completed works of similar scope, scale, budget and complexity, or articulate how the artist(s) would be able to bring necessary artistic technical skills to this project.

TO APPLY

If interested in this particular project, applications must be submitted using the Call for Entry (CAFÉ) online application system managed by the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF). Artists will be required to create a username and password and set up a personal account, free of charge, at www.callforentry.org. Following successful set up, all interested applicants will be granted full access to our detailed application; simply click on “Apply to Calls” and click on “El Paso Eastside Regional Park”

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Letter of Interest: briefly describe your interest and qualifications for this project.
- Current Resume: outline your experience as an artist. **Artist teams must submit a resume for each member.**
- Six (6) images of completed past artworks. Including: title of work, dimensions, medium, year of completion, a three (3) sentence description, and value or budget amount for works of art for insurance purposes. **If applying as a team, only six (6) images can be submitted to CAFÉ.**
 - Images must be sized to the following dimensions (as required by the CAFÉ online application system)
 - Dimensions: 1920 pixels horizontal or vertical, i.e. 1320 x 1920 pixels
 - File Format: Baseline JPEG (do not use progressive JPEG format)
 - Compression: Please size each image to be no more than 1.8 MB in file size. On average, each image will be roughly 1.2 MB. Larger is not necessarily better. **JPEG images cannot be saved as progressive JPEG files. Progressive JPEG files will appear on the CAFÉ web site, but will not display properly during the jury process.**
 - Media: Internet submissions only

- File Name: CAFÉ will automatically rename files

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by an Artist Selection Panel (ASP), which may be comprised of a representative from the architectural consultant, a visual artist, Parks and Recreation representative, and a member of the Public Art Committee. The ASP will review all complete, eligible applications received by the deadline shown on the schedule.

- Artists will be selected on the basis of their qualifications as demonstrated by their application materials.
- The following individuals may not apply: City employees and employees of MCAD, artist who currently hold public art contracts with the City of El Paso, the project architect and/or other project personnel, members of the PAC, members of the ASP, and the immediate family members and business partners of all of the above.

REVIEW CRITERIA

- Meets the definition of Artist, as defined in the Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines.
- Demonstrates artistic excellence, innovation and originality as represented in past work and supporting materials.
- Demonstrates capacity for working in media and with concepts that are appropriate to the project goals and site.
- Demonstrates interest and capability in creating public artworks in collaboration with the City, MCAD, the design team (if applicable) and other project partners.
- Demonstrates interest and capability in engaging community representatives in a project.
- Demonstrates the ability to communicate effectively and elicit the ideas of team members; flexibility and problem-solving skills; and ability to work with architectural drawings and construction documents.
- Demonstrates experience in successfully completing works of similar scope, scale, budget and complexity, or articulates how he or she would be able to bring the necessary artistic and technical skills to this project.
- Is available to perform the scope of the work in a timely and professional manner.
- Builds the diversity of the City's public art collection.

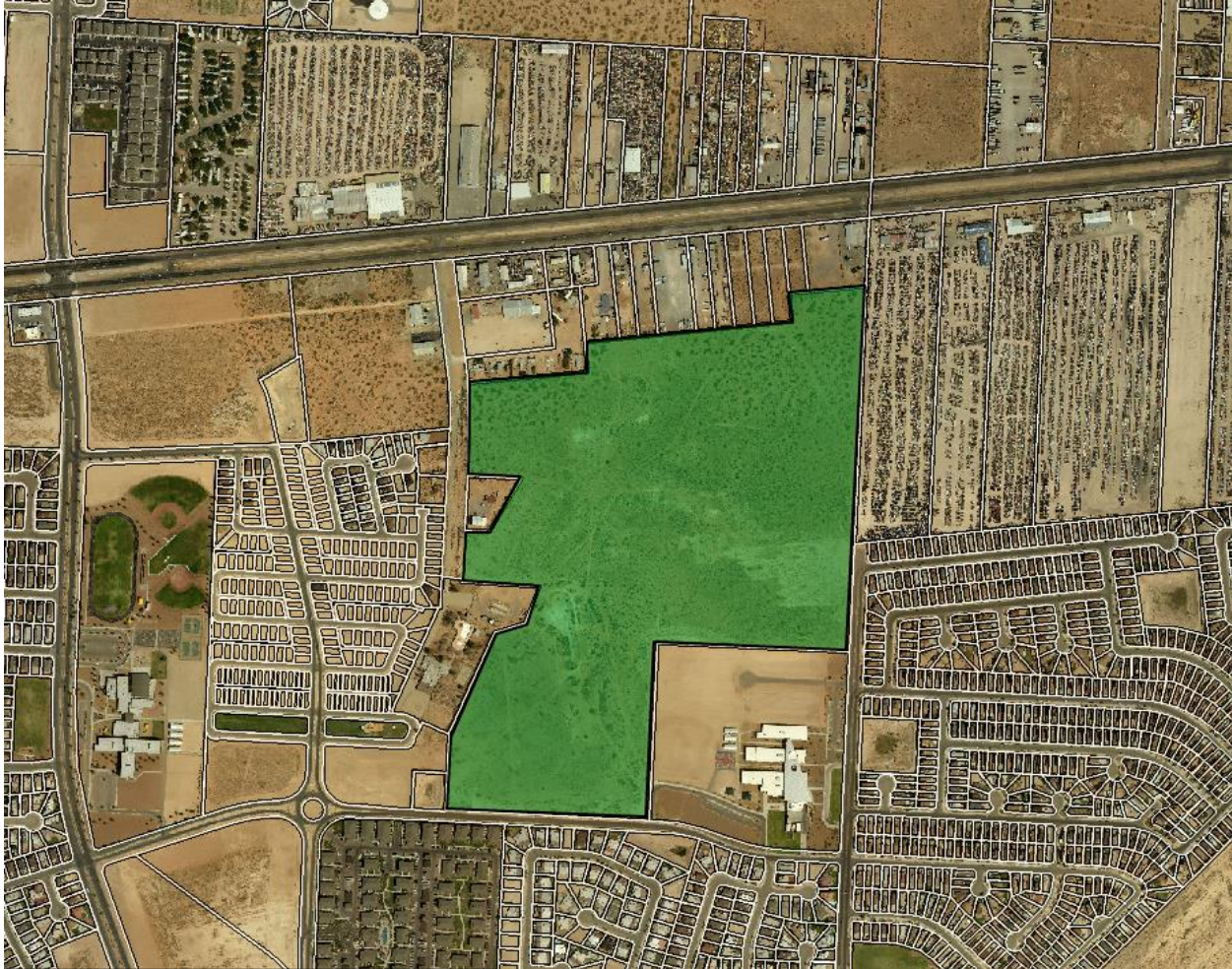
Timeline/Schedule

February 26, 2016	RFQ Application Deadline
April 12, 2016	Artist Selection
April 18, 2016	Commission awarded

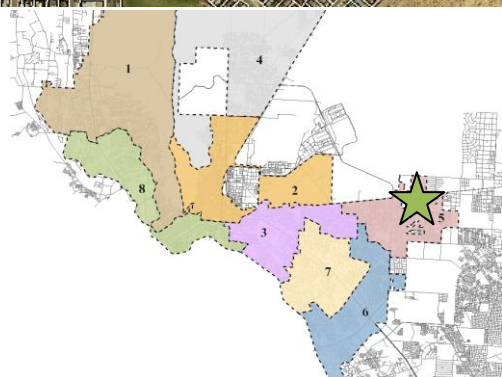
FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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EXHIBIT (A) – AERIAL SITE MAP



Vicinity Map



City Map General Location